



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY DRILL SERGEANT SCHOOL
9574 MARION AVENUE
FORT JACKSON, SC 29207-6400

ATZJ-DSS

MEMORANDUM FOR Drill Sergeant Candidates

SUBJECT: Welcome Letter

1. As the Commandant of the United States Army Drill Sergeant School, congratulations on your selection to attend this course. Selection to Drill Sergeant School is a true testament of your excellence in past performance and potential enabling you to become a role model and trainer for Initial Entry Training (IET) Soldiers.
2. Your course curriculum is challenging, exciting, and meaningful. The school operates under the basic concept of a proud Soldier; proud to be here and proud to return to your parent unit applying this concept. We emphasize individual dignity of every Soldier. Each course objective is designed to further develop your confidence, responsibility, leadership techniques, and higher personal and professional standards. Ultimately, we will teach you the standards expected of Noncommissioned Officers while performing duties as a United States Army Drill Sergeant.
3. Your attitude, diligence, and cooperation with others are significant factors in the degree of your success and professional improvement.
4. Drill Sergeant School standards are high. We expect you to have a positive attitude, be personally committed to succeed, and obtain a complete understanding of the "how and why", and not just "what" we teach. Upon graduation, you will be assigned as a Drill Sergeant in an Initial Entry Training Unit.
5. When arriving to Fort Jackson, all Candidates must report to the Fort Jackson Inn on 7550 Benning Road and sign for a room. Candidates will be housed at the Magruder Transient Lodging (RA/ARNG) or the Fort Jackson Single Soldier Complex (USAR).
6. The first formation for incoming Candidates is 0800hrs on the report date listed in ATRRS (a link to ATRRS can be found in AKO under Self Service, My Education). The location for the formation is in the parking lot of the Post Theater located off Jackson Blvd. You must bring your Military ID Card, ID Tags (no exceptions) and a black ink pen. The Candidate in-processing uniform will be the IPFU (seasonal).
7. In-processing will begin immediately following the formation. Ensure that you have the following items:
 - a) Five copies of your TDY orders or DD Form 1610.
 - b) Two copies of your Mental Evaluation (MEDCOM FORM 699-R no later than 6 months).
 - c) Two copies of your Commanders Checklist.
 - d) Two updated copies of ERB (RA) or DA2-1 and DD214 (USAR/ARNG) Personal file will be updated within 30 days of class enrollment.
 - e) I highly recommend you bring a personal or Army issued Laptop.

- f) Candidates will possess a government travel card if not you will be paying out of pocket for lodging for the duration of the course.
- g) Complete and bring the Global Assessment Tool (GAT) at <https://www.sft.army.mil>.
- h) Complete and bring the Authentic Happiness (VIA) assessment: <http://www.authentichappiness.sas.upenn.edu/> (have to register to complete, take the VIA Strength of Character Strengths survey)
8. You must have all of your paperwork to be enrolled in the course. Additional information for the USADSS can be accessed at the following link: <http://www.jackson.army.mil/units/drill/index.html>
9. The Drill Sergeant School is not a Noncommissioned Officer Education School. Therefore, the height and weight requirements for NCOES do not apply. You must meet the U.S. Army HT/WT standards and pass an APFT with 60 points in each event along with a total score of 180 points to be accepted into the course.
10. Drill Sergeant Candidates (DSCs) are required to know Drill and Ceremony IAW FM 3-21.5. To facilitate in their basic knowledge it is recommended that they read chapters 2-3 and become familiar with the first three basic movements and positions: Position of Attention, Rest Positions at the Halt, and the Hand Salute, before they arrive. Drill and Ceremony “cheat” books or study guides are strongly prohibited and discouraged. The only manual used for learning Drill and Ceremony will be FM 3-21.5.
11. You are welcome to join our official Facebook page. It is for all past, present, and future Drill Sergeants and their families. <http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-US-Army-Drill-Sergeant-School/445241370286?ref=ts>
12. There will be a Drill Sergeant Spouses Forum on the last Wednesday of graduation week at the USADSS from 1230-1600. All spouses and family members are encouraged to attend. Children are also encouraged to attend as child care will not be provided.
13. If you have any questions concerning the school visit the USADSS website at <http://www.jackson.army.mil/sites/dss/> or you can call DSN 734-6232/6011 and Commercial (803) 751-6232/6011. Or write to the following address: DSS2@us.army.mil



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Commandant